



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Cochise Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes January 21, 2010

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 2:30 PM at the Valley TeleCom Building 752 E. Maley St. Willcox, AZ. 85643.

Council Members Present:

Ana Bae-Limb (telephonically), Del Cabarga (telephonically), Vaira Harik, Mary Sue Houser, Dave Howe, Renae Humburg, Melodi Polach, Ginger Ryan, Jane Strain, Nancy-Jean Welker and Evelyn Whitmer (telephonically)

Council Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Cristal Martin, Annette Garcia (telephonically), Robin Falconer, Marilyn Godfrey, Valley Owen, Rebecca Cornejo, Judith Schmitt, Priscilla Whitlock-Coates, Cindi Alva, and Nancy Ledesma

Chair Strain welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 2:37 PM. Member Welker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of the December 3, 2009 Meeting and the December 15, 2009 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Chair Strain to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 Meeting and the December 15, 2009 Special Meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes will be posted as published.

Discussion and Approval of Needs and Assets Vendor

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council, provided a recommendation for Donelson Consulting, LLC as the Needs and Assets vendor and referred the Regional Council to the Needs and Assets Summaries and Recommendations handout. Ms. Avant detailed the rationale for her recommendation as well as why the remaining vendors were not chosen. Member Humburg moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve Donelson Consulting, LLC as the vendor for Needs and Assets 2010. Member Polach seconded the motion. Member Cabarga and Member Whitmer

abstained. The Regional Council discussed the qualifications of Donelson Consulting, LLC as well as the extent of their experience in Cochise County.

Motion carried 9:0

Coordinator's Report

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, discussed the tasks and timeline for the coming year with the Regional Council. Ms. Avant thanked the Regional Council for their hard work and expressed her appreciation, stating the Regional Council are "truly changing the lives of children" in Cochise County. Chair Strain requested additional Work Sessions be scheduled before each Regular meeting at 1:00 PM along with additional meetings as needed in order to keep the Regional Council on track.

Ms. Avant provided a handout showing the two year and four year terms and discussed council member terms with the Regional Council. Ms. Avant stated that the two year terms are up in May and explained the process and where to look on the First Things First website for reapplication.

Ms. Avant provided an update for Strategy Two, an incentive strategy which provides \$20,000 in loan forgiveness and \$50,000 in stipends (which includes travel, housing, and continuing credits) to therapists. The Arizona Department of Health Services is ready to start with the loan forgiveness portion of the strategy in February with the stipend portion starting thirty days later. The Regional Council discussed stipend amounts, forms of accountability, and the possibility for flexibility in the stipend such as allowing the individual to determine the amount needed for predetermined categories. The Regional council agreed the stipend amounts should remain in local control.

Ms. Avant gave the Regional Council a template for Grants Financial and Program Data Summary Report. The template was finalized Tuesday, January 19, 2010 and is for both State and County. The data from the grantees is due January 20, 2010 and will be reported on quarterly starting at the February meeting.

Funding Mechanisms for SFY 2011

Annette Garcia, Grants and Contracts Specialist, First Things First, discussed and explained a handout that was provided to the Regional Council with options and recommendations regarding grants for strategies One, Five, Six and Nine. Strategy One has new components included in the strategy so in order to have consistency in implemented programs RFGA is recommended. Strategy Five also has new components and a RFGA is also recommended to allow the grantee to stay true to the intent of the Regional Council's scope. The Strategy Six grantee (Easter Seals Blake Foundation) was signed in November 2009, and the recommendation is for renewal, to allow the grantee to implement the strategy. Strategy Nine is a new strategy and the recommendation is to release a RFGA with scope of work and intent of the council, including the components the Regional Council would like to see in the program. The grant amounts are not doubled and cannot be renewed with an addendum to add or change services.

Discussion and Approval of Grant Agreements or Request for Grant applications for SFY 2011

Member Ryan moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve the RFGA as the funding mechanism for Strategy One Home Visitation to include Early Literacy. Member Houser seconded the motion. Member Harik and Member Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss.

Motion carried 9:0

Member Polach moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve the RFGA as the funding mechanism for Strategy Five Health and Nutrition to include Oral Health Education. Member Humburg seconded the motion. Member Harik, Member Ryan and Member Whitmer declared conflict of interest and recused themselves. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss.

Motion carried 8:0

Member Polach moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve the Renewal as the funding mechanism for Strategy Six Mental Health Credentials. Member Houser seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss.

Motion passed 11:0

Member Howe moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve the RFGA as the funding mechanism for Strategy Nine Oral Health Education. Member Welker seconded the motion. Member Ryan declared a conflict of interest. The Regional Council discussed the need for a competitive process. Motion passed 9:1

Announcements

Next regular meeting: February 18, 2010 located at the Mona Bishop Room in the Sierra Vista Public Library at 2:30 PM.

A work group meeting is set for February 18, 2010 at 1:00 AM at the Mona Bishop Room in the Sierra Vista Public Library at 1:00 PM.

Chair Strain and Vice Chair Howe will attend a Chair/Vice Chair meeting in Phoenix on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

The Regional Council shared some of their community events:

Member Cabarga notified the Regional Council of a Healthy Food Planning Retreat that will take place in Dragoon on February 16-17. Any interested parties can contact Member Cabarga on his cell phone.

Member Whitmer shared that Early Childhood Brain Development was refunded and the classes will continue with child care providers. A new Child Care Health Consultant, Nicole Sanchez R.N., has been hired and will attend the February meeting for introductions.

Member Welker informed the Regional Council that the Bowie High School is the only high school in the county that has a hospitality program and has partnered with the University of Arizona.

Member Polach reminded the Regional Council that Friday, March 26, 2010 is the annual conference for the Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse located at the University of Arizona. Ms. Polach also asked the Regional Council to be aware of what is going on at the Legislature and act according to each member's personal convictions.

Member Polach attended a RFGA Focus group in Vail on December 10, 2009 to review the grant process. The focus group gathered information from community members and was receptive to the suggestions that were made to make the grant process more efficient.

The Chiricahua Community Health Center has hired their fourth pediatrician, who will start May 1, 2010. An adult internist has been hired for the Bisbee Clinic and will start March 1, 2010. The keys for the 15th Street School will be accepted next week.

Chair Strain shared her experiences from the editorial board at the Arizona Republic Building. Ms. Strain encouraged the Regional Council to continue their advocacy work and share the "First Things First story". Ms. Strain also suggested a set of talking points regarding voter protected funds and "fade-out effects" from the First Things First Communications department.

Call to the Public

Marilyn Godfrey, Cochise County Health Department, shared a few success stories from the Home Visitation program:

- A teenage mother living at home, without a job, joined the program. Through the program she found a part-time job and enrolled in college.
- A mother was given help to fill out her husband's immigration papers. Since July they completed the immigration paperwork, the mother and her husband both have a job and have enrolled in classes. The family was educated about and qualified for child care.
- A Community Health Worker in Douglas helped a young mother to locate and apply for low income housing.

Adjournment

There being no further discussions, Chair Strain adjourned the meeting at 4:20 P.M.

Dated this 18 day of February, 2010.

Submitted By: Cristal Martin
Administrative Assistant

Approved By: Jane Strain
Chair, Jane Strain